

Message Text

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FODAG

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SUBJECT: PARM-ANNUAL POLICY AND RESOURCE ASSESSMENT-FAO

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PART I - POLICY ASSESSMENTS

A. U. S. INTERESTS: THE UNITED STATES , AS THE LEADING AGRI-
CULTURAL PRODUCER AND EXPORTER, AND WITH VERY ADVANCED TECH-
NOLOGY IN FOOD PRODUCTION, HAS A NATURAL BASE FROM WHICH TO
PLAY A LEADING ROLE IN THE AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD ORGANIZATIONS OF
THE UNITED NATIONS LOCATED IN ROME: THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION (FAO), THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM (WFP), THE WORLD
FOOD COUNCIL (WFC), AND THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICUL-
TURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD). WITHIN THIS COUNTRY'S OVERALL
FOREIGN POLICY FRAMEWORK, THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES GUIDE
THE UNITED STATES' PARTICIPATION IN THE ABOVE ORGANIZATIONS
FOR WHICH THE OFFICE FOR FAO AFFAIRS (FODAG) IS RESPONSIBLE:

1. STIMULATING GLOBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; ESPECIALLY
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AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES;

2. INCREASING NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL OUTPUTS THROUGH THE
EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL
INFORMATION;

3. IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND AVAILABILITY OF GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL

COMMODITY INFORMATION, AS A BASIS FOR PLANNING PRODUCTION AND FACILITATING INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS;

4. FACILITATING THIS COUNTRY'S DYNAMIC PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL MARKETS;

5. PROVIDING FOOD AID AS A TRANSITIONAL MEASURE AS A FORM OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO THE DEVELOPING AND ESPECIALLY THE POOREST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND ALSO EMERGENCY AID WHERE ACTUAL FOOD REQUIREMENTS ARE NOT BEING MET; AND

6. PROVIDING INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE DEVELOPING AND MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED COUNTRIES.

B. OVERVIEW: THESE OBJECTIVES HAVE NOT CHANGED MUCH WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS, BUT THEIR IMPORTANCE IN OVERALL U.S. FOREIGN POLICY INCREASED IN 1975 AND 1976 FOLLOWING THE EMPHASIS PUT ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BY THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE AND OUR RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE AND ABILITY OF THE UNITED STATES RESPONDING IN THIS AREA IN THE NORTH/SOUTH DEBATE AND DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. THE PAST RAPID INCREASE IN INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS IN 1977 AND 1978 MAY SOMEWHAT SLACKEN, BUT THE TIME SPENT COORDINATING WITH THE SECRETARIAT AND MEMBER STATES TO ASSURE THAT THE INCREASED PROGRAMS ARE BEING RUN SMOOTHLY WILL CONTINUE TO BE VERY TIME CONSUMING AND IMPORTANT. THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL AND IFAD AND NEW BODIES CREATED IN RESPONSE TO THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, AND WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CONTINUE TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXPAND. OUR PROBLEM WILL BE TO STEER THE EXPANSION IN LINE WITH THE ABOVE OBJECTIVES WITHOUT CREATING TOO BIG AND EXPENSIVE A BUREAUCRACY AND TO ASSURE THAT U.S. CONTRIBUTIONS ARE USED EFFECTIVELY. THE U.S. NO LONGER CAN CONTROL THE DEBATE IN THESE COUNCILS BUT WE CAN LEAD BY MASTERY OF THE ISSUES AND CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH THE SECRETARIATS AND OTHER DELEGATIONS. A SOMEWHAT LARGER MISSION THAN MOST OTHER COUNTRIES ALLOWS US TO FOLLOW ISSUES IN ROME IN GREATER DEPTH THAN MOST OF OUR COLLEAGUES, THEREBY MASTERING THE ISSUES AND THUS PLAYING A LEADING ROLE. IT ALSO ALLOWS US TO REVIEW THE BUDGETS OF THE FOUR ORGANIZATIONS IN DEPTH TO ASSURE EFFICIENT USE OF FUNDS. THIS BUDGETARY REVIEW FUNCTION IS BECOMING AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT FUNCTION OF THIS OFFICE AND OF OTHER MISSIONS TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

C. OBJECTIVES, COURSES OF ACTION, AND ISSUES: THE GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF U.S. PARTICIPATION IN THE FAO,

WFC, WFP, AND IFAD ARE SET FORTH IN PART A. ONE OF THE CHIEF ISSUES FACING THE U.S. IN THE FAO IS WHAT SPECIFIC FAO PROGRAMS WILL BEST ACHIEVE THESE OVERALL, GENERAL GOALS. A SECOND, EQUALLY IMPORTANT ISSUE IS: ONCE A PROGRAM IS IDENTIFIED, DOES THE USG WISH TO USE THE FAO TO ATTAIN SUCH A GOAL. FOR EXAMPLE THE USG HAS PROPOSED A WORLD FOOD RESERVE IN THE INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL. THIS ISSUE IS SQUARELY WITHIN THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE FAO AND WFC, BUT WE LOSE A GREAT DEAL OF CREDIT FOR THIS INITIATIVE BY OPPOSING ANY REAL DISCUSSION OF THIS TOPIC IN ROME. ANOTHER EXAMPLE IS THE U.S.-SUPPORTED INITIATIVE TO REDUCE POST-HARVEST LOSSES IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD BY 50 PERCENT: DO WE WISH TO ACHIEVE THIS BY AN FAO MULTILATERAL PROGRAM, BILATERALLY OR A COMBINATION OF THE TWO? NUTRITION, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, USE OF THE FAO AS DISTINCT FROM UNCTAD AS A COMMODITY FORUM, WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT, AND REGIONAL FISHERY AGREEMENTS ARE ALL POLICIES WHICH WE FAVOR IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GENERAL, BUT WE NEED TO INTEGRATE OUR BILATERAL EFFORTS INTO A COORDINATED EFFORT WITH THE FAO. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE NOW THAT THE FAO HAS A DYNAMIC DIRECTOR GENERAL WHO WANTS TO DO SOMETHING AND WOULD LIKE TO COOPERATE WITH THE USG. U.S. IDEAS AND SOME MONEY PUT INTO THE AREA OF POST-HARVEST LOSSES WOULD FIND A WARM FAO RESPONSE WHICH COULD GREATLY INCREASE THE EFFECT OF AN ISOLATED U.S. PROGRAM.

THE ABOVE MAJOR POLICY ISSUES HAVE TO BE DECIDED IN WASHINGTON, THOUGH FODAG MUST ACT AS AN EFFICIENT COORDINATOR BETWEEN THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND THE FAO. THE LATTER BOTH THE FAO SECRETARIAT AND FAO MEMBER STATES AS REPRESENTED IN MEETINGS. THIS TAKES MANPOWER AND EXPERTISE IN BOTH ROME AND WASHINGTON. PART II OF THIS REPORT DESCRIBES HOW WE RELATE OUR EXISTING MANPOWER TO THE DEMANDS ON THEIR TIME AND SUGGESTS SOME POSSIBLE FUTURE CHANGES. GARDNER

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